

Town of Lincklaen Monthly Board Meeting
Tuesday, February 18, 2025
Town Hall – 7:00 PM

Members Present

Supervisor Sharon Monro
Councilman Harold Baritell
Councilman Patrick Holl
Councilman Andrew Holl
Councilman Jeff Hathaway
Town Clerk Diana Kilfeather
Highway Superintendent Barry Monro

Others Present

Forest Ranger Michael Chappell-
315-382-1159
Jennifer Reiss, NYSDEC 315-426-7479
Jim Haley, NYSDEC 315-426-7426
Sandi Card
Janice Custer
Wayne Outwater
Luke Huysman- Barbland Dairy

Absent

Deputy Hwy Super – Roy
Marshall

The public hearing before the regular monthly meeting of the Lincklaen Town Board was called to order by Supervisor Sharon Monro at 7:02 pm.

Public Hearing

Forest Ranger, Michael Chappell, NYSDEC representatives Jennifer Reiss, and Jim Haley were present to answer any questions regarding the open space project to acquire a parcel of land on Route 12 in the Town of Lincklaen to help implement a connective corridor for the Finger Lakes Trail between Cuyler Hill and Mariposa State Forests.

Wayne Outwater – had several questions, 1) Have the rules regarding the open space changed, has this gone through the open space committee? County Rep had no knowledge of this also. When I was on the Open Space Committee these projects all had to go through the Open Space Committee.

Response Jennifer Reiss: Anything before the last three years she has no knowledge of. The process is to first write this letter to the town of the intent and see what goes from there. If there is no positive word from the town that we send the letter to, we move forward with the project and submit it to Albany Central Office for approval, at what point it comes back to the County level, I don't know.

Wayne Outwater- In my previous experience with open space, I've got to believe that in this particular case Finger Lakes Trust bought the property, I've got to believe that there was some kind of agreement between them and DEC to buy this property or they would not have spent that kind of money on it.

There has got to be something going on long before we got this letter. I would think long before Finger Lakes bought the property.

Jennifer Reiss: I know that the property was bought by Finger Lakes Trail Conference in 2021, which is before I started working here. I can only imagine the conversations, but I am sure there were conversations in regard to that. Initially they were going to buy the whole lot of land on both sides of the road, but they decided not to take the agricultural land. They purchased both lots from the Costello's.

Wayne: How is it going to work from now on?

Jennifer: The Open Space Committee put the plan together for example, this is the 2016 version of the Open Space Plan and so all the projects have been predetermined by each of the counties throughout the state of which projects and project types will be approved. If a particular project is pigeonholed into something that is preapproved by the members of the committee, then we move forward. A new one is being published this year. This project falls under the Jenny Green Trail, it meets that criteria. It is compliant with the plan.

Wayne: The second part of letter says, "if acquired, this land will have the same taxable status as the existing state forest lands." What is that compared to what the average citizen pays?

Jennifer: The assessment for the Town is 41% below 100%, The State land does not pay the County taxes, but they pay the local taxes and the school taxes.

Wayne: So the other 60% is going to have to be made up by the people that live in this town. My opinion is if the state wants the land they should pay the same taxes that I pay.

Jennifer: That is set by the Assessors, but it is not isolated to the forest but to everyone on the tax roll.

Wayne: *So how many acres do you own in Chenango County?*

Jennifer: 73,887 acres.

Wayne: *Here in lies the problem, Chenango County has more state land than any other county. A lot of small towns that live off sales tax, but we do not have any business here in our small town to generate revenue. I question how this goes through like this. They buy it before anyone has a chance to say should they do that. What are you doing with this land, the 136 acres?*

Jim Haley: It will become part of the reforestation to connect the two together and there will be a Finger Lakes Trail across the top of it, so that people can go out and recreate on it. It was bought first to put the trail on it. This acquisition removes a lot of the trail off the road and connects state forests.

Wayne: *Does the DEC take care of the stewardship? I'm against it for the reason of taxes, stewardship, a lot of reasons.*

Michael Chappell: Does the Finger Lakes Land Trust pay taxes?

Wayne: *No, they are tax exempt.*

Michael Chappell- The DEC buying it will give you some taxes being paid on it.

Jennifer: Current Tax rolls from 2025, coming up with a current comparison, 139 acres property comparable to property they are buying. Assuming the assessment is similar, property taxes would be \$3500.00, school taxes would be \$7000.00 to property that does not require any services. This would bring \$10,000 back to the town. Going forward this is part of the 2050 Vision Plan. Open Space Plan, State Forest List for stewardship, and other information was left with Supervisor Sharon Monro. Equalization Rate is applied equally across the board.

Sharon Monro: *The Town is only losing \$778.00 from this land purchase.*

Motion to close the public hearing made by Councilman Patrick Holl, seconded by Councilman Andrew Holl. All in favor. Motion carried.

Minutes from January 21, 2025, meeting

- ***The motion was made Councilman Andrew Holl, seconded by Councilman Patrick Holl to approve the 1/21/25 meeting minutes. All in favor. Motion carried.***

Profit & Loss and Budget Reports

- ***Motion was made by Councilman Harold Baritell, seconded by Councilman Andrew Holl, to approve the January 2025 financials. All in Favor. Motion carried.***

Communications:

Chenango County Treasurer's Office – Our 12/31/24 cash position remains strong and shows some stabilization versus 2022 and 2023 results. Sales tax receipts as of 11/30/24 are 3.5% less than last year and not matching inflation.

Department of Taxation and Finance- Notice of Tentative Special Franchise Full Values for the 2025 assessment roll. Assessments shall in no case exceed full value.

Justice Report: No report

Appointments: None

Highway Report

- Plowed and sanded 27x's.
- Installed a new sander shoot on Truck #4.
- Bought TV and installed 2 outlets in breakroom.
- Helped Pharsalia.
- Replaced PTO clutch on truck #6.

- Put a new motor on spinner for the sander on Chevy.
- Cut low hanging limbs on Factory Gulf, the dead-end section of Joe Road and Dublin.
- Eastern Energy installed new LED lighting in the garage.
- Replaced air fittings on Truck #4.
- Replaced pressure protection valve on Truck #4.
- 2016 Chevy Truck check engine light is on again, after new fuel pump put in. Town of Cuyler has a 2018 F550 they are putting up for sale. The truck has 72,700 miles, had 35,918 miles before they put a brand new motor in it. 2023 new brakes all around and new tires. Comes with a 9ft western plow and 4 ½ yard sander. They are checking to see if it has an extended warranty on the motor. They want \$45,000.00 for it. Looked at 3 trucks both new and used, but without dump body or plow. New would run us \$72,000 – \$79,500 without having plow or dump on them. ***Motion to give Highway Superintendent Barry Monro the authority, after looking over the Cuyler Truck, to negotiate purchasing said truck, made by Councilman Harold Baritell and seconded by Councilman Jeff Hathaway. All in favor. Motion carried.***
- ***Motion, pending outcome of inspection of the Cuyler Truck, and purchase, to surplus the 2016 Chevy Truck made by Councilman Harold Baritell, seconded by Councilman Andrew Holl. All in favor. Motion carried.***
- Auctions International are coming this week and I suggest putting the Chevy up for auction.

Clerk Report

- 2 Outstanding dog licenses from January will send out a second notice to them.
- Taxes collected to date: \$389,810.64. Town Budget paid in full.
- Thank you to Sharon Monro for covering the clerks office while I was away.
- 2 deaths in January, Mark Harris and Keith Plummer.

Historian Report

- No Update- Question about digitalizing records. Diana Kilfeather is working on that, but it is a long and slow process that will take time to get everything scanned into the computer.

Cemetery- None

RLF Report

2 Current

One application is still pending.

Guest: Luke Huysman – Barbland Dairy Update on work being done there regarding the concrete manure storage, stormwater pollution prevention, HDPE Lined waste storage, vegetated treatment area replacement. He will drop off all plan books outlining work to the clerk's office on Thursday.

Old Business

- Garage LED lights completed.
- NYMIR Insurance – received refund check. Will sit down with Dave and Cheryl to go over our whole policy
- The Fire Detection System is now connected.
- Barbland Dairy was sent letter as a reminder to check with county, if they need permits.
- Well Testing – code enforcement is getting a contact for us to have done. Town Barn and Town Hall water will be tested too.
- Time capsule ideas
- Town Letter

New Business

- Annual Financial Report – completed, will be emailed to the board.

Motion to go into executive session to discuss personnel matter made by Councilman Patrick Holl, seconded by Councilman Harold Baritell. All in favor. Motion carried.

Motion to come out of executive session, made by Councilman Harold Baritell, seconded by Councilman Patrick Holl. All in favor. Motion carried.

Motion to Pay Bills

- The monthly bills were audited by the members of the Town Board. ***Motion to approve to pay bills was made by Councilman Patrick Holl, seconded by Councilman Harold Baritell:*** General #12-21 in the amount of \$3,044.13 and Highway #23-44 in the amount of \$26,075.35. ***All in favor. Motion carried.***

Upcoming:

- Grievance Day – End of May – exact day TBD
- Republican Caucus – Tuesday, June 10, at 7:00 pm
- Rabies Clinic – Schedule is set by Chenango County -TBD
- White Goods and Tire Day – Saturday, August 16, 9:00 am – 2:00 pm
- Election Day – Tuesday, November 4th

Meeting adjourned at 8:57pm
Diana Kilfeather, Town clerk